

taken to ascertain how a man with a large family to support on slender means could manage to keep up the style he did and carry on such business. The same might be said in respect to the scandalous barndance delinquencies at the Post Office.

Now, there is a lesson to be learnt from this ruinous haphazard manner of carrying on public business, and it is that secret surveillance and Government employees is an absolute necessity and should be carried on at the earliest possible moment. It might cost a few hundreds of dollars annually, but what would that be as compared with the scores of thousands embroiled, and gone for ever, and the riddance of notoriously bad rubbish that should speedily result from careful and cautious investigations? Very little, indeed, and the sooner it is done the better will it be for the credit of the Government of this scandalously misgoverned colony—this happy hunting ground for the fat-headed calves of Downing Street.

Yours faithfully,

OBSERVER.

Hongkong, 15th September, 1893.

FOOCHOW NOTES.

Foochow, 9th September, 1893.

There has lately been a brisk demand for Foochow manufactured paper for the North, and the export of this article during the past few weeks has in consequence been considerable. The Foochow Arsenal, which has for some years past been under the control of the reigning Viceroy, has now been transferred to the superintendence of a mandarin specially appointed by him.

Early on Wednesday morning, when half a gale of wind was blowing and the tide running strong, a house boat got adrift on the river and running on to the rocks near Limpo became a complete wreck. There were two men and a boy of twelve on board. The men managed to save themselves, but the boy was drowned. A man in the medicine shop in making up the doctor's prescription. The Chinese doctor having certified that the mistake was the cause of the man's death, the family demanded a sum from the proprietor of the shop as indemnity for their loss, which was promptly paid to avoid further trouble.

Some wealthy philanthropic local natives have engaged the services of a staff of Chinese doctors to attend the poor who may need medical advice. The doctors are to be paid by the hour, and are to be consulted at the Joss-house at the back of the Native Hospital. Advice and medicine will be given free of charge. It is merely a matter of accident we presume that this consulting room is next door, so to speak, to the Foochow Native Hospital.

In the village named Chatsze in the close vicinity of the Pagoda, Hwa-Hul lottery tickets have been largely dealt in, and this having been brought to the notice of the Viceroy, a magistrate supported by a body of troops, "bravos" has, under orders, made a raid on the shops. Some twenty dealers in the tickets were arrested, but many escaped and the lead man could not be found. All the movable property of these shops was taken possession of.

A mandarin in the office of the Provincial Treasurer to whom the duty of making payments was entrusted, has lately been discovered to be helping himself to funds belonging to the office. It appears that he had been systematically drawing money down to persons entitled to pensions on the pension list which had never been paid them. He has been arrested, and he will be kept in prison until instructions have been received from Peking as to how he is to be punished. The report of his conduct is now on the way to the capital.

A fire broke out at about 8 o'clock last Saturday night in a street called How-chow, which is off the main thoroughfare on the right, facing the city, near the back of the fish-market on that side. It originated in a joss-paper shop. It appears that to find the particular kind of paper required by a customer, which happened to be stowed away on a top shelf, the serving lad climbed a ladder with a candle in his mouth, and while taking down the paper brought it in contact with the flame of the candle and in a short time the whole shop was on fire. A strong northerly wind was blowing at the time, causing the flames to spread from house to house with marvellous rapidity, and by 9 o'clock there was a tremendous fire spread configuration. As there had been no rain for a long time the timber of the houses was as dry as tinder, affording an easy prey to the flames. It is estimated that upwards of 600 houses were consumed, and the loss of property was of course very great, bringing ruin to the majority of those burned out. To add to the disaster, twelve lives were lost through the falling of one of the high firewalls. The fire did not subside until nearly mid-night.

SHOULD THE CHINESE BE EXCLUDED?

Much of the adverse criticism on the Chinese Restriction Law of May, 1892, says the Hon. Thomas J. C. in the *North American Review* for July, is due to ignorance of the situation which then confronted Congress, and the intent and purpose of the law. Those hostile to this Act condemn, not the intention of the law but the consequences which follow upon its violation, and which are the creation of persons affected by it.

The consequences now confronting the Chinese in the United States are the result of the action of the Chinese themselves in defying the Government in their voluntary failure to obey its just and reasonable laws; and their possible deportation is the result of their own actions and not what was contemplated or expected when the law was passed. The law was intended only to prevent the further importation of Chinese into the United States. Deportation of those legally here was not its purpose. It was a proper and just exercise of power on the part of the country. The condition that confronted us is well stated by Mr. Joseph H. Choate, the attorney for the Chinese, in his argument before the United States Supreme Court in their behalf.

[Here follows a quotation from Mr. Choate to the effect that a very large class of Chinese laborers who were lawless lawbreakers, had made their way into our country in defiance of its statutes, and that these could not be easily distinguished from the other class who were law-abiding and entitled to be and remain here.] Since 1882 the laws of this country have prohibited the coming into it of Chinese laborers. This law was known in China and was familiar to all these people here, yet the Chinese continued to pour into the country in violation of our laws. Once here, they were received with open arms by their people, and their identity was concealed and lost in the great mass of Chinese in this country who have always been the obedient and law-abiding subjects of the United States. It was impossible to separate them from their countrymen for deportation, on account of their looking so much alike, and because numbers of the fellows were always ready to testify that the accused had been in the United States for many years. These violations of law were encouraged by the Chinese legal here, and especially by the Six Companies, who made a profit out of the importation of the coolies. Either the restriction

laws had to be repealed and the ports of the country thrown open to this class of immigration, or else some other measure that would secure the enforcement of the restriction laws had to be adopted.

During these years the Government has expended much money to maintain its reports, for the purpose of preventing infraction of our laws by a race who have never shown any respect for them. Of the 10,500 Chinese now here, more than one-third are here contrary to our expressed wish.

The Act of 1892, as Mr. Choate says, had for its only object the identity of those Chinese who are rightfully here, so that we might distinguish them from those who came in violation of law and have no right to remain. It was calculated to prevent the deportation of the innocent or the infliction upon them of any hardships attendant upon its enforcement. It was not a harsh law, and its purpose was justified by the necessity of securing obedience to our existing statutes, and upon the score of economy in reducing the expenses incurred by the Government because of the defiance of our laws by this particular race.

Objection is made to the registration, that it subjects the Chinese to hardships, and degrades them. If registry is degradation, there are many Americans who have a right to complain. The law requires that citizens shall register before being allowed to vote; and in most of the States members of certain professions and trades are required to register and obtain a certificate before being allowed to pursue their calling.

The law provides that officers go to the Chinaman wherever he be and afford him every facility for complying with the law without expense or burden. The law was wise and just, and ought to be enforced. It is known from the fact that in California, where nine-tenths of the Chinese in the United States reside, that the great mass of Chinamen here would willingly have complied with the law but for the threats of their masters, the Six Companies, who hold most of the Chinese in this country under control. The antagonism of the Six Companies to the law is not on account of the degradation it offers to their subjects, but because its enforcement would insure the prevention of any further importation of their slaves. It was the destruction of their slave-trade that caused the Six Companies to fight the law, and not any love for the vassals now in their employment here.

The law is in entire accord with the last compact between this Government and China. In this treaty it is provided that— "If Chinese laborers, or Chinese of any other class, now either permanently or temporarily residing in the United States, meet with ill-treatment at the hands of any other persons, the Government of the United States will exert all its power to obtain redress for their protection, and to secure to them the same rights, privileges, immunities, and exemption as may be enjoyed by the citizens, or subjects, of the most favored nation, and to which they are entitled by treaty."

Such language is not found in any treaty with any other nation, and illustrates the acuteness of Chinese diplomacy. As the National Government is made primarily liable for any injury to Chinamen in the United States, it became the duty of this Government to adopt a system of registration of all these people, for the purpose of their protection, and to secure to them the same rights, privileges, immunities, and exemption as may be enjoyed by the citizens, or subjects, of the most favored nation, and to which they are entitled by treaty.

The exercise of the registration power is justified by this treaty, and failure to require registration would be gross carelessness. The first duty of Governments is to their own citizens. Is it fair to subject our laborer to the competition of a rival who measures his wants by an expenditure of six cents a day, and who is habituated to live on an income of \$5 per month? What will become of the boasted civilization of our country if our laborer is compelled to compete with this class of labor, with more competitors available from China than twice the entire population of Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Switzerland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain.

The Chinese laborer brings here no wife and no children, and his wants are limited to his individual necessities, while the American must earn income sufficient to maintain wife and babies. The protection of American labor is an essential duty of the American Government. We are threatened with the loss of the trade with China. We would be better off without any of it. It leaves a balance of fourteen to sixteen millions against us every year.

Yes, if they remain in the United States, must obey our laws. There is no room in this country for the establishment of foreign Governments, or for forces that are not willing to submit to be governed as we are governed.

BITS OF INFORMATION.
One man in four has defective vision.
There are no snakes in Newfoundland.
The first Pension Act was passed in 1818.
One takes about 2,000 steps in a mile's walk.
Among civilized people Sweden takes the palm for honesty.

The first American postal card was issued in May, 1873.
An hour comprises twenty-eight ounces in twenty-four hours.
The magnifying light was first applied to art photography in 1864.

The Physicians were the first to employ engineers to fortify cities.
The oldest existing bank is the Barcelona Bank, founded in 1401.

Rapid growth of the finger nails is considered to indicate good health.
The Cheware tribe in Russia use no money.

Their unit of value is a cow.
There was no year of 1 B.C. was immediately followed by the year A.D.

The longest trestlework in the world is the bridge over Lake Pontchartrain.
More suicides take place on Tuesday and Thursday than on other week days.

A quarter of each generation is said to die before reaching the age of seventeen.
Most tribes of North American Indians have some kind of the general Deluge.

The first of the common rats now in America were imported from England in 1775.
An alloy of 78 per cent gold and 22 per cent aluminium is the most brilliant known.

An average summer walk at an Atlantic City "hop" covers three-quarters of a mile.
Australia is bigger in population than America was when it declared its independence.

The average height of an infant at its birth is 18 inches; average weight 6 3/4 pounds.
Plinius says that 600 years were spent in building the temple of Diana at Ephesus.

There are 49,605,000 dwelling-houses in Europe, and 11,400,000 in the United States.
The birth rate in the United States diminished a little over four per 1,000 from 1880 to 1890.
The Empire of Morocco is the most important State that is absolutely without a newspaper.

More women marry between the ages of twenty and twenty-five than at any other time in life.
Two to the days of Apollo the Greeks knew but four colors—white, red, yellow and black.
All the glaciers in the Alps would not equal one of the largest in our Territory of Alaska.
In 1783 Noah Webster printed the first spelling-book ever manufactured in the United States.
A scientific exchange has found out that "only the female mosquito sings, the male being dumb."
Tobacco was first discovered in Cuba in the year 1492, but was not taken to Europe until 1493.

In 1861 photography was first successfully applied to the transfer of art works to wooden blocks.

New Mexico has the lowest death rate from consumption of any State or Territory in the Union.

The year '93 began on Sunday, and it will end on Sunday, thus giving sixty-three Sundays to the year.

In 692 the King of Northumbria gave 500 acres of land for one book containing the history of the world.

The wonderful Damascus blades that cut bars of iron in two were not superior to the Toledo blades of to-day.

In ancient days nearly all Grecian maidens dressed in white. Any other color was considered immodest.

The oldest fete in the world is made of the thigh bone of a sheep and was found in a tomb on the banks of the Nile.

New Illum or Troy had a State bank in the second century B.C. that borrowed money for the State and paid to percent.

The oldest statue in the world is that of the Sphinx of an Egyptian village. It is believed to be not less than 6,000 years old.

The amount of air that a man will inhale in twenty-four hours is fifty-three pounds; he exhales about the same weight.

At the beginning of the last war (in 1876) the population of Paraguay was reckoned at 770,000; to-day it is less than 250,000; and fully six-sevenths of that number are women.

A perfectly formed face should be divided into three equal parts, from the roots of the hair to the root of the nose, thence to the tip, and from the tip of the nose to the tip of the chin.

George Washington, who was first in peace, first in war and first in the hearts of his countrymen, died on the last day of the week, the last day of the year, the last month of the year and the last year of the last century.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.
In Bengal there are three harvests reaped every year—rice, pulses and oil-seeds in April, the early rice crop in September, and the great rice crop in December.

On the tower of the parish church of Bicknoller, Somerset, is growing a yew tree now 5 feet high. It is supposed that it owes its origin to a seed dropped by a bird.

Telephonometry is the new instrument that registers the time of each conversation at the telephone from the time of ringing up the exchange to the ringing-off signal.

The Chinese have no large factories or machinery, and the finest silks are woven in the small dwellings of the poor upon the simplest kind of looms, all the family taking part in the dyeing, weaving and spinning.

Of all living things trees, perhaps, are capable of longest life. English yews and California redwoods are supposed to have lived 1,000 years, and there are cedars of Lebanon which may possibly date back before the Christian era.

The order of precedence in the British army is as follows: Life Guards, Horse Guards, Dragoon Guards, Cavalry of the Line, Horse Artillery, Engineer, Grenadier Guards, Scots Guards, Coldstreamers, then Infantry of the Line.

The wild oranges of the Society Islands, which are now an important article of export, owe their origin partly to Captain Cook, who brought to London ships from Brazil, and partly to the early missionaries from the Australian colonies, who introduced another variety.

In the Spanish province of Gerona a fairly pure type of the dwarf race of Morocco and the Atlas has been traced. These people average about 3 feet in height, and are otherwise characterized by a yellow skin, broad, square faces, Mongolian eyes and red hair of a woolly texture.

The Clearing-house of London was the first of its kind, established in 1775 for the use of bankers that they might exchange drafts, bills and securities, and thereby reduce the labor of effecting daily settlements in cash. By means of a system of books and transfer tickets accounts involving many millions are daily settled without the exchange of any money.

In 1864, the association was joined by the Bank of England. Horchair is less used now than formerly for the padding of military coats. Probably one cause for its abolition is the troublesome wound it makes when a bullet passes through the stuffing before entering the flesh, for the hard, stiff hair is driven before the bullet and sets up a constant irritation there. Several such instances occurred in the American Civil War, when soldiers were shot by marksmen perched in trees.

Dr. Vercoutre of the French Army Medical Corps has made a careful examination of the tattoo marks with which the faces and the bodies of the natives of Tunis are generally covered and has ascertained that when these tattooings are thoroughly done they reproduce very closely the type of human figure, with outstretched arms, which was to be seen on the ancient monuments of Phenicia and Carthage and which represents the "symbol of the Punic Trinity."

WAS IT A GHOST THEY SAW?

Mrs. H. H. JENNINGS lives at No. 211, Main Street, Bridgeport, and Miss Minnie Parrot boards with her. The house is an old one, but in good order. One night early in December (1893) the two ladies looked all the doors and went to the theatre, leaving a maid in the house. They left the gas burning, however, in the front parlor. At about half-past eleven they returned, and entered the house, laughing and talking. But as they went into the parlor the merry humors died out of them in a second. Right in the middle of the room stood a dark and an elegant statue. The upper part of his face was concealed by a mask, his eyes gleaming through the eyeholes in it. His shirt-sleeves were rolled up, and in one hand he carried a long, old-fashioned pistol. The women fled screaming from the room, and when Mr. Jennings came in five minutes later he found no one in the parlor and all the doors and windows securely locked. What was it the women saw?

"During a recent period of ill health," writes an American friend, "I had slept badly for several successive nights. On the fourth of these nights about two o'clock, I was suddenly aroused from a dose by what seemed like the calling of my name; and at the foot of the bed, stood the image of my mother (just as she looked five years before she was leaving home to go on a journey, on which journey she was killed in a railway disaster. I screamed and faintly. I was foolish enough to tell of it, and the local old woman gossips said it was a nightmare and I would never get well. Yet I did, and am in perfect health now. I believe that I had seen my mother's face, for I've never seen it since, and I don't think I shall ever see it now."

No doubt it was the nerve. Why, then's no end to the tricks the nerve will play off on you when your system is out of condition. In March, 1890, it was that Mrs. Jane Foster, of Dartmouth Road, Folesdown, Hants, wrote us as follows:—"I was so dreadfully nervous I could not bear anyone in the room with me, yet I did not wish them far away in case I should call out for help. This was in June 1889. I slept very badly, and in the morning felt like the better for having gone to bed. There was often a severe pain in my head and over my eyes, and I was sick most of the time. My skin was dry and yellow, and the stomach and bowels felt cold and dead. By-and-by I had to lie in bed. This was in June 1889. I slept very badly, and in the morning felt like the better for having gone to bed. There was often a severe pain in my head and over my eyes, and I was sick most of the time. My skin was dry and yellow, and the stomach and bowels felt cold and dead. By-and-by I had to lie in bed. 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